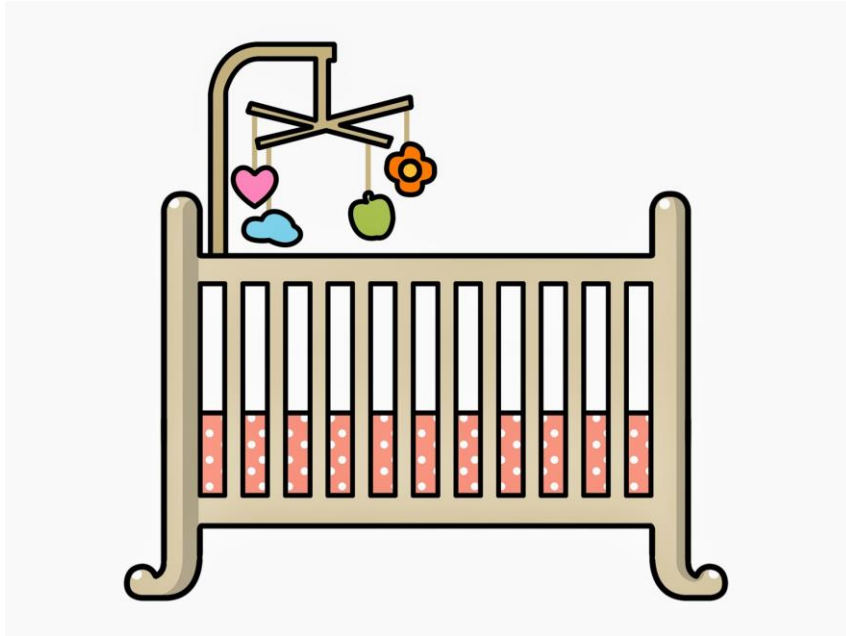
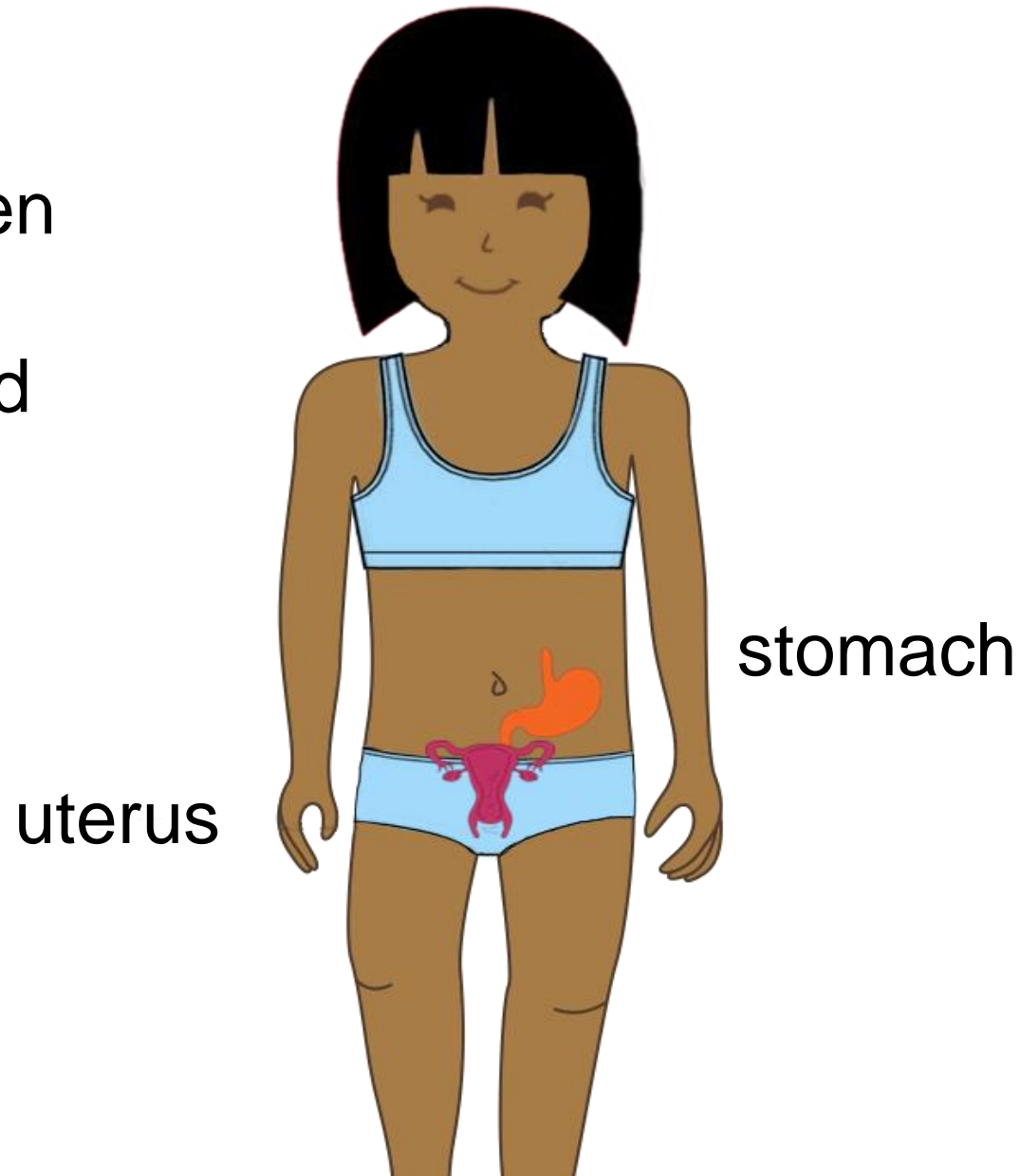


# Reproduction Basics

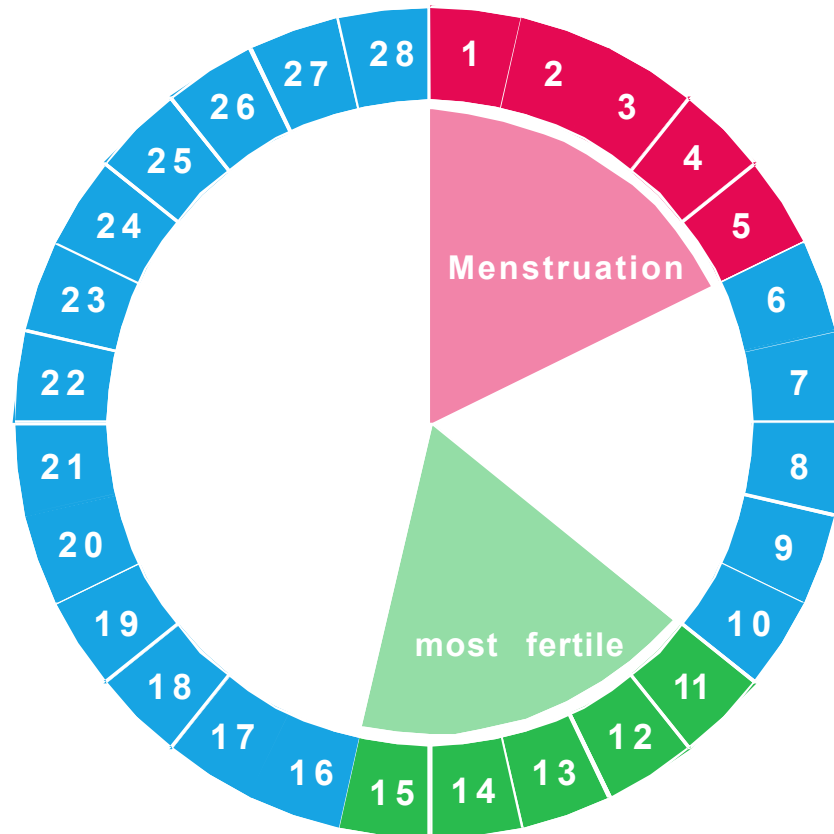


# Fertility and the Menstrual Cycle

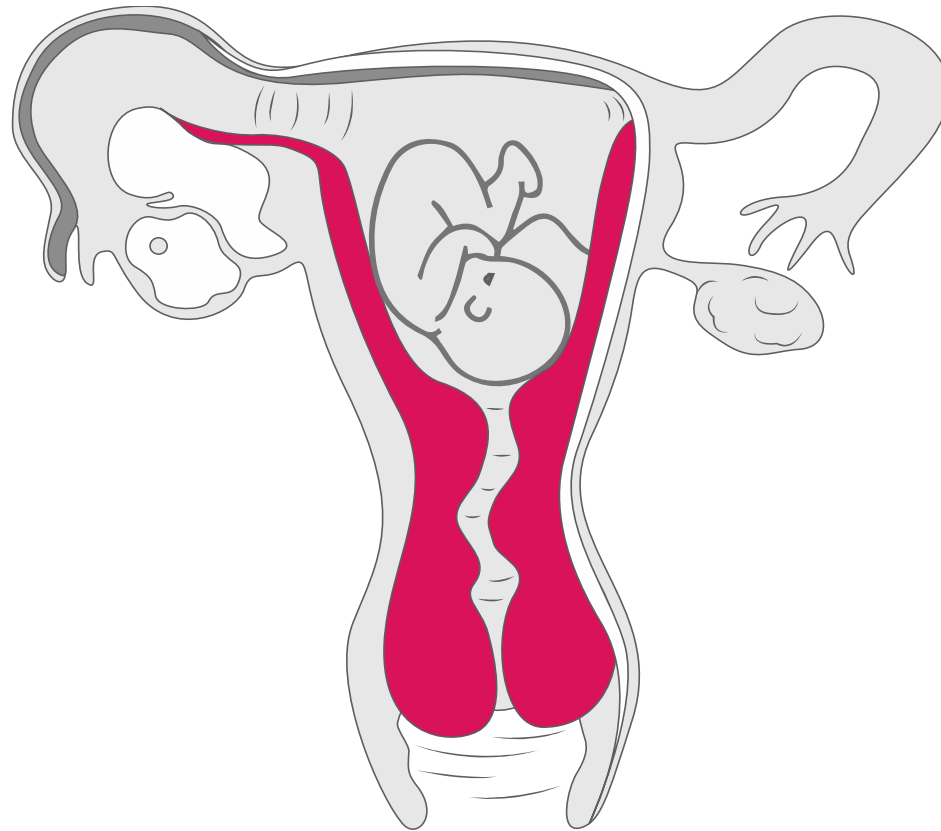
A female's uterus is located in the abdomen next to the stomach. The uterus is involved with menstruation.



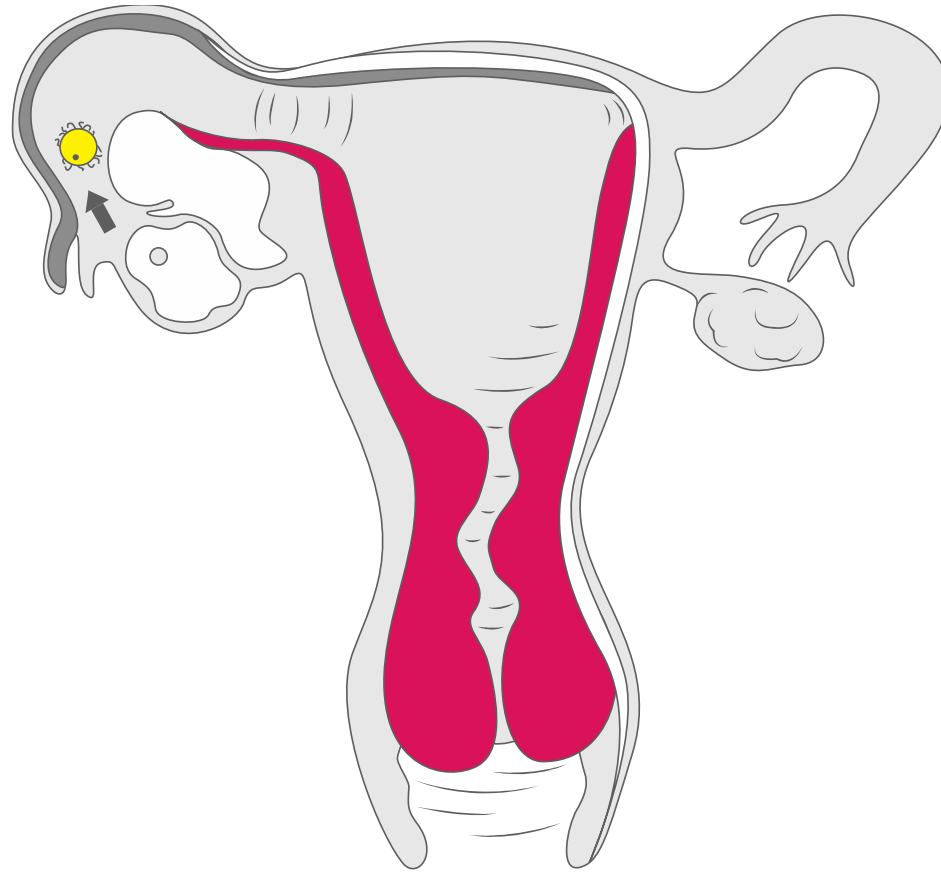
- Average menstrual cycle is about 28 days but varies widely from person to person.
- Menstrual periods usually start between the ages of 9-15.



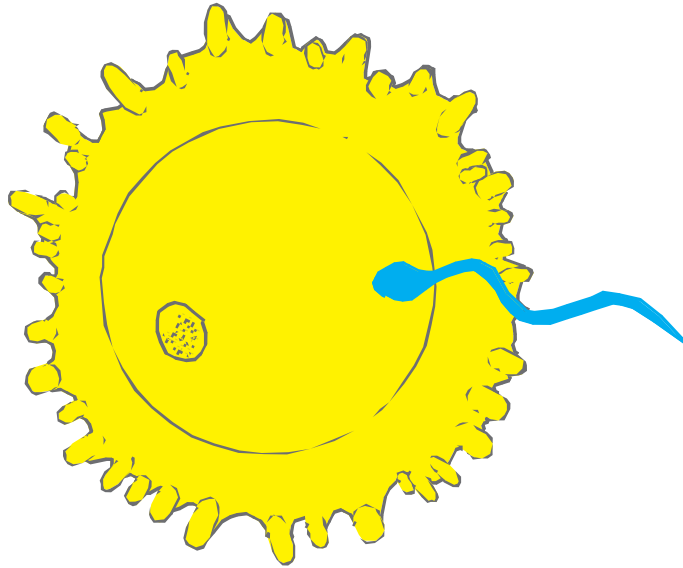
To prepare for a potential pregnancy, each month the uterus grows a thick lining to create a good environment for the potential fetus. That is what a baby is called before it's born.



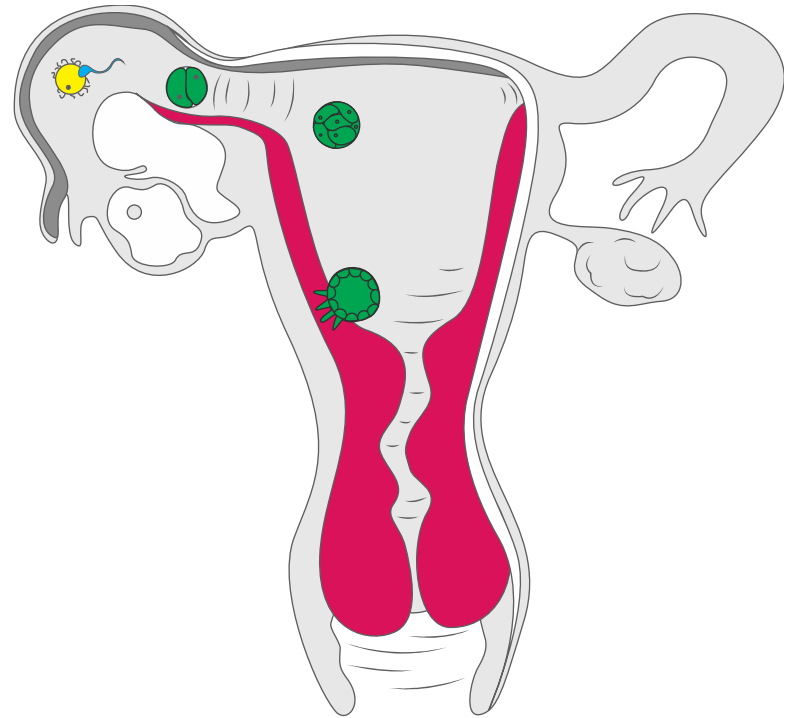
Each month, an ovary releases an ovum, or egg, into the fallopian tube.



While it's traveling, if the ovum unites with a sperm and implants in the uterus a pregnancy can begin.



FERTILIZATION



**We all start out  
a tiny cell.**

---

A zygote is formed and quickly begins dividing to become an embryo.

---

An embryo develops between the second and eleventh week of pregnancy.

---

As pregnancy progresses the embryo becomes a fetus.

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The fetus becomes a neonate or newborn at birth

# Stages of Development



**9 weeks**  
Fetal stage begins



**12 weeks**  
Sex organs differentiate



**16 weeks**  
Fingers and toes develop



**20 weeks**  
Hearing begins



**24 weeks**  
Lungs begin to develop



**28 weeks**  
Brain grows rapidly



**32 weeks**  
Bones fully develop



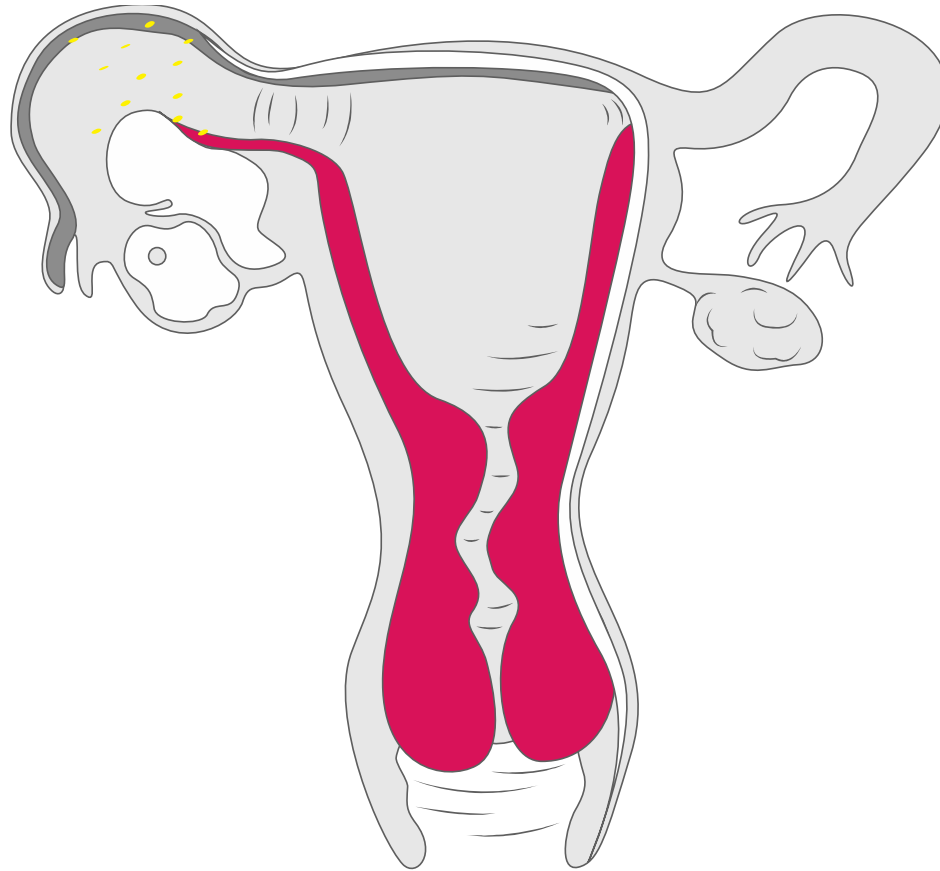
**36 weeks**  
Muscles fully develop



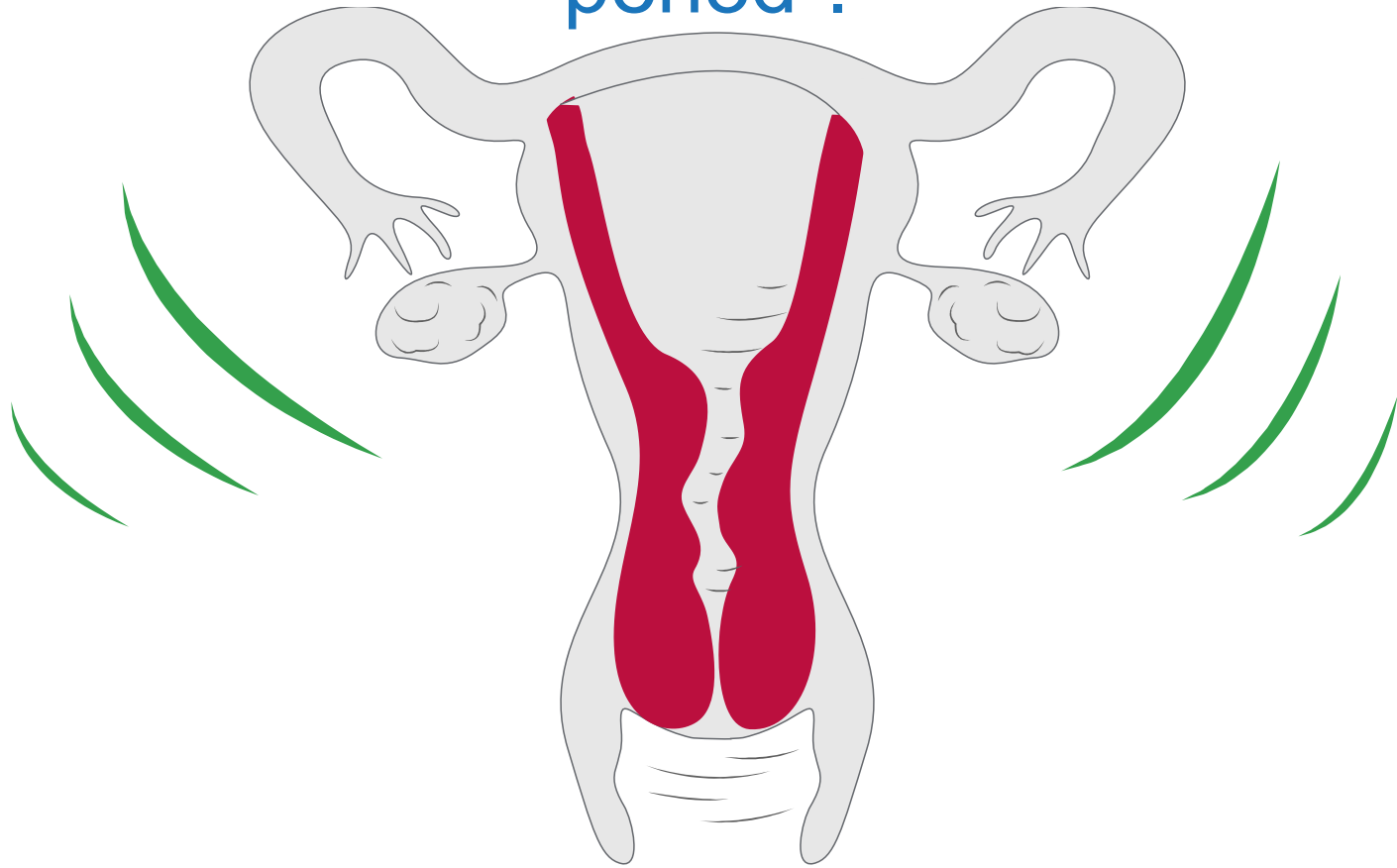
**40 weeks**  
Full-term development



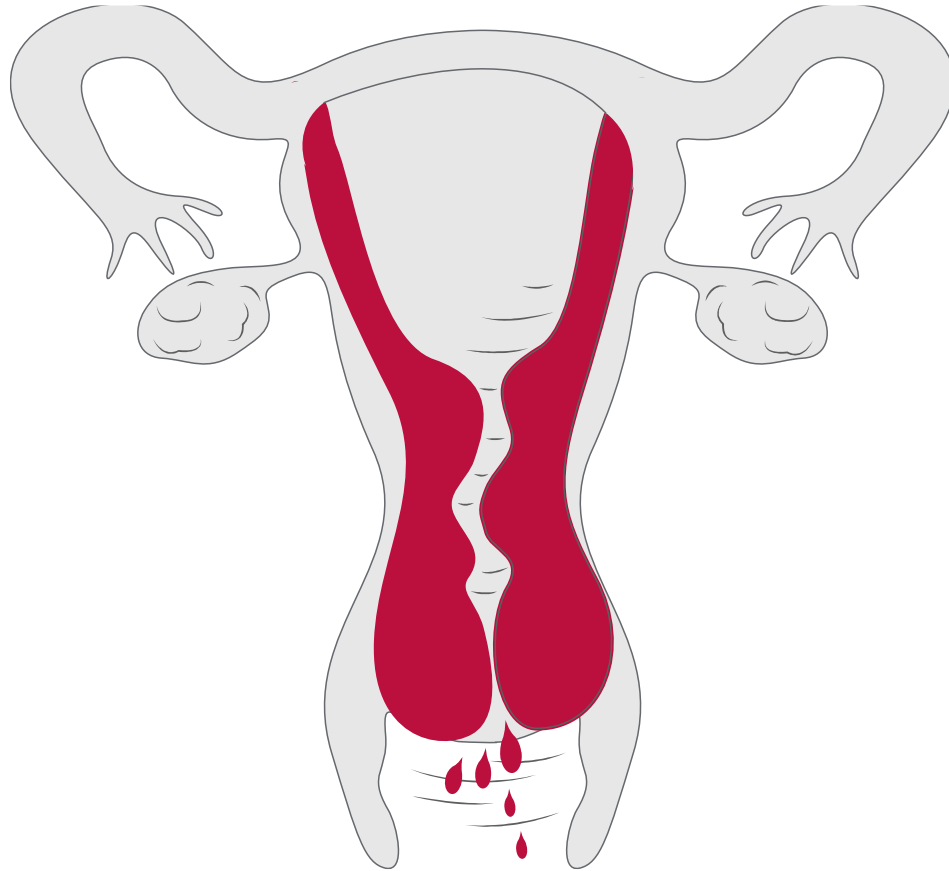
If the egg does not unite with a sperm within 24-48 hours, it will dissolve and be reabsorbed by the body.



If the egg and sperm do not unite, hormones signal the uterus to prepare to shed the lining causing someone to menstruate or have “a period”.



Menstruation, or having “a period” is when the uterus rids itself of the lining because there was no fertilized egg.



# Partner Work

Let's work with a partner or partners to complete the Reproduction Basics Handout.



# Questions?

**What is one thing I  
still have a question  
about?**

